

TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION MINUTES

September 28, 2005

Chair Knox White called the Transportation Commission to order at 7:37 PM.

1. ROLL CALL – Roll was called and the following recorded:

Members Present:

John Knox White
Robert MacFarland
Patianne Parker
Robb Ratto
Eric Schatmeier

Absent:

Jeff Knoth
Michael Krueger

Staff Present:

Barbara Hawkins, City Engineer
Barry Bergman – Program Specialist II, Public Works

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

<p><i>Commissioner Parker</i> moved approval of the minutes for the July 20 Transportation Commission meeting. <i>Commissioner Ratto</i> seconded the motion. Motion carried by a unanimous vote – 5.</p>

3. AGENDA CHANGES

None.

4. COMMISSION COMMUNICATIONS

Transportation Master Plan (TMP) Multimodal Circulation Plan Subcommittee – The Subcommittee has been working on a revision of the City's street classification system and met with the Task Force. A follow-up Task Force meeting is scheduled for October 12.

5. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS - NON-AGENDIZED ITEMS

None.

6. OLD BUSINESS

6A. Transportation Master Plan (TMP) Priorities

Staff Bergman presented the staff report. He noted that since the original timeline for the TMP was approved, that circumstances had changed; as a result, staff is recommending a revision to the planned order of some of the mode-specific plans of the TMP.

Specifically, the City had received a grant for the Pedestrian Plan, and recently the Council has expressed an interest in several activities that would fit into the discussion for the Transportation Systems Management/Transportation Demand Management (TSM/TDM) Plan. Since the Multimodal Circulation Plan is well under way, and would serve as the framework for the entire TMP, staff views this as the highest priority.

Commissioner Parker stated that it would be easier to keep track of the progress of the TMP if staff could prepare a chart illustrating the TMP schedule.

Commissioner Parker also noted that the proposed ECO Pass program is specific to employers and asked why it could not be expanded to a larger population across the City. She also noted that there is a proposed pass program for the Alameda Point development.

Staff Bergman responded that AC Transit is in the process of developing a standardized formula for calculating the costs of these types of programs. Currently they only have three programs in place, all in Berkeley – for City of Berkeley employees, University of California staff, and University of California students. Because of the different characteristics of these populations, the costs for these programs need to be calculated separately.

Public Comment Opened

Bill Smith recommended the use of benefit assessment districts to develop funding sources for needed transportation improvements.

Lucy Gigli, President of BikeAlameda, stated that she was wary of further delaying the bike plan update. She noted that it has been six years since the initial plan was completed, and that there is a need for many changes to the current plan.

Jon Spangler expressed his concern about the feasibility of collecting all of the required data for the pedestrian plan by the end of the school year. He reiterated Ms. Gigli's concerns about the bike plan, and indicated that he would like to see it made a higher priority.

Public Comment Closed

Chair Knox White recommended that once the bike plan update begins that a second bicycle plan update workshop be held due to poor attendance from the public at the initial meeting. He asked that the workshop be held at City Hall instead of City Hall West to encourage improved attendance.

<p><i>Commissioner Parker</i> moved to accept the staff recommendation. <i>Commissioner Ratto</i> seconded the motion. Motion carried by a unanimous vote – 5.</p>
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7. NEW BUSINESS

7A. I-880 Access Issues

Chair Knox White noted that there are projects being undertaken in Oakland which could have a significant impact on Alameda's access to the regional transportation system, and he is concerned that there have not been sufficient opportunities for input in the early stages of project development. Specifically, he mentioned the Broadway/Jackson interchange project, and the Park Street Triangle project, both of which will impact on connections between Alameda and I-880.

Chair Knox White stated that the process for providing input into a project can be confusing, and that it would be helpful for elected officials and citizens to have a better understanding of how it works. He distributed a handout suggesting the development of a task force to discuss these issues. Specifically, *Chair Knox White* suggested that the TC recommend a process whereby staff from the cities of Alameda and Oakland, elected officials and the public would develop an agreement which would define what projects would be of mutual concern as well as a process for soliciting input on these projects early on. He suggested that this approach would be proactive and would enable ideas to be circulated early in the process before design decisions are made.

Chair Knox White emphasized that the proposed task force would have a limited life span, meeting perhaps three or four times, to develop this agreement.

Commissioner Parker asked what has already been done and what is being done to coordinate efforts between the two jurisdictions.

Open Public Comment

Jon Spangler stated that *Chair Knox White*'s handout does not address emergency preparedness issues, and that consideration of these issues at a regional level is important. He suggested that a task force be established for the long term, so that the cities of Alameda and Oakland could continue to coordinate their efforts on projects that affect both jurisdictions.

Bill Smith expressed his support for Mr. Spangler's comments regarding emergency preparedness, and noted the importance of enhanced access to I-880 for Alameda.

Close Public Comment

Commissioner Schatmeier suggested that the Interagency Liaison Committee (ILC), which the City of Alameda and AC Transit use as a way of addressing transit issues, could serve as a model.

Chair Knox White acknowledged that the staff of both cities does communicate, but his concern is that the concerns of the public are not aired early enough in the process, and that important decisions are made before the input is solicited

Commissioner Parker stated that she did not know enough about current coordination efforts between Alameda and Oakland. She moved that this item be tabled until the next meeting.

Staff Hawkins stated that there are a number of ways in which the two cities currently work together. She noted that there is the ??? which meets quarterly, including staff representation from Oakland, Alameda, Caltrans, the Coast Guard, and Alameda County. She suggested that emergency response may be a good topic for this committee??? and noted that the City is currently developing an emergency response program. She also noted that several years ago, there were periodic meetings between the city managers and assistant city managers from both cities. She asked what are the most appropriate levels of government that should be getting together, since at the higher levels, the exchange is more general

Staff Hawkins stated that the Park Street Triangle project was developed as part of the estuary plan, which had a significant amount of public input. The current effort is carrying forward a capital project that was identified in that plan.

Staff Hawkins also noted that sometimes early input can be difficult for the public, because they are not familiar with the issues, and it is helpful to have some analysis done to give the something to respond to.

She noted that the ILC is somewhat different than dealing with Alameda/Oakland issues, since AC Transit is a transit agency that operates in Alameda.

Commissioner Ratto moved to accept *Chair Knox White's* recommendation. No one seconded the motion.

Chair Knox White tabled the discussion of the proposed task force to address input into selected Oakland projects until the October meeting.

8. STAFF COMMUNICATIONS

The TC had requested updates regarding the status of the Commission's recommendations on three projects.

Broadway-Jackson: *Staff Hawkins* stated that the TC's recommendations on the Broadway-Jackson interchange project will be forwarded to the City Council along with comments from other stakeholder groups. She noted that additional presentations on the project will be made to the League of Women Voters and the Alameda Chamber of Commerce, and that others may be interested in presentations as well. She indicated that

the recommendations should be presented to the Council in November or December, and that December is also the scheduled date for the final stakeholders' meeting.

Alameda Point Transportation Study: *Staff Hawkins* stated that the Alameda Point Transportation Study would be presented to the Alameda Reuse and Redevelopment Authority (ARRA) on October 5, but presentations are not scheduled for any City boards and commissions. She indicated that the intent is to clarify issues for the developer and that ARRA will hopefully accept, not approve, the study.

Theater/parking garage: *Staff Hawkins* stated that a use permit hearing is scheduled for September 29. She noted that issues to be discussed include the conversion of angled parking to parallel parking on Central Avenue between Oak Street and Walnut Street and installation of a bike lane along this block once the main library building has been completed. To address the needs of bicyclists on Oak Street, the proposal is to add shared lane markings (or "sharrows") and signs. She stated that there will be discussions with the Alameda Unified School District (AUSD) to address their parking needs in the area. *Staff Hawkins* also noted that the environmental document for the project has gone forward.

Chair Knox White said that the TC recommended the installation of sharrows from Encinal Avenue to Lincoln Avenue, not just to Central Avenue. *Staff Hawkins* responded that this would be addressed in the implementation process.

Chair Knox White suggested that when the Commission makes recommendations to the City Council, that it might be easier for the Council to review the recommendations if they were presented in a different format. Currently the Council receives a copy of the TC minutes. *Chair Knox White* suggested preparing and sending to the Council a brief summary of the main recommendations in addition to the minutes. *Commissioner Parker* supported this recommendation.

9. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 8:45 PM.